



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/662,898	09/15/2003	Akihiro Matsunaga	MATSUNAGA, ET AL-4	1301
25889	7590	05/06/2005	EXAMINER	
WILLIAM COLLARD COLLARD & ROE, P.C. 1077 NORTHERN BOULEVARD ROSLYN, NY 11576			GILMAN, ALEXANDER	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2833	

DATE MAILED: 05/06/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/662,898

Applicant(s)

MATSUNAGA ET AL.

Examiner

Alexander D. Gilman

Art Unit

2833

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE ____ MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 December 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 and 7-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) 6 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12/20/2004.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: ____.

Art Unit: 2833

DETAILED ACTION

Notice of allowability filed 10/25/2004 is withdrawn in view of the newly submitted IDS filed 12/20/2004

Rejections based on the newly cited reference(s) follow.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 3-5, 7-9, 11, 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kuwata.

With regard to claims 1, 12, Kuwata (EP 0,871,262) discloses a connector for electrically connecting a mating object, the

connector comprising'

a conductive contact (6), .

a housing (2) fixedly holding the contact',

a cover (12) connected to the housing for pressing the mating object against the contact to establish electrical connection between the mating object and the contact', and

a locking mechanism (14 7, 8) connected to the housing and the cover for keeping the cover in a connected state in which the electrical connection is established, the cover being held on the housing to be rotatable in a first direction and to be movable in a second direction intersecting the first direction, the locking being engaged in a direction opposite to the first direction and in the second direction, disconnection of the mating object being carried out by rotating the cover in the first direction to disengage the locking portion and by moving the cover in the second direction, thereby allowing the mating object to be disconnected.

With regard to claim 3, Kuwata disclose that the locking portion comprises:

Art Unit: 2833

a housing locking portion (8) coupled to the housing', and a cover locking portion (14) connected to the cover, the housing locking mechanism and the cover locking mechanism being adapted to be mechanically engaged with each other in the direction opposite to the first direction and in the second direction.

With regard to claim 4, Kuwata disclose that the housing locking (7, 8) mechanism has a recess portion opened in the first direction, the cover locking mechanism (14) being fitted to the recess portion when engaged with the housing locking mechanism

With regard to claim 5, Kuwata disclose that said housing locking portion has plural (two) engaging portions for being engaged with the cover locking mechanism in directions different from one another (assuming that engagement in a rotational direction and by friction in the horizontal direction), the engaging portions defining the recess portion.

With regard to claim 7, Kuwata disclose that a frictional locking arrangement for flexibly locking the cover to the housing in the second direction by friction.

With regard to claim 8, Kuwata disclose that the cover comprising a shaft portion (4) formed integral with the first end portion of the cover and rotatably engaged with the housing.

With regard to claim 9, Kuwata disclose that the shaft portion is movable (col. 3. lines 25-30) along the housing in the second direction.

With regard to claim 11, Kuwata disclose that the locking portion being adapted to engage the second end portion of the cover with the housing in the direction opposite to the first direction and in the second direction.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kuwata in view of Ito.

Art Unit: 2833

Kuwata does not explicitly disclose an elastic member coupled between the housing and the cover for continuously urging the cover in the direction opposite to the first direction

Ito et al (EPO 0947,944) disclose an elastic member

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the housing with an elastic member, as taught by Ito et al, to effectively support the engaged locking mechanism

Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kuwata in view of Zheng et al

With regard to claim 10, Kuwata does not explicitly disclose the housing has a housing protrusion facing the cover shaft portions in a third direction perpendicular to the first and the second directions, the housing protrusion and the shaft portion being slide to each other to produce resistance force relative to movement of the shaft portion in the second direction.

Zheng et al (US 6,319,036) disclose the housing protrusion (124) facing the cover comprising a shaft portion (108) formed integral with the first end portion of the cover.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the housing with a housing protrusion facing the cover shaft portions in a third direction perpendicular to the first and the second directions, as taught by Zheng et al, to simplify manufacturing process.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 6 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

No prior art has been found to anticipate or render obvious the presently claimed subject matter.

Specifically, none of the prior art of record discloses the combination of the limitations presented including the lock plate being fixed to the housing, the lock plate being made of a metal material and having the housing locking portion and a ground-connecting portion which is for connecting the ground, the cover and the cover locking portion being made of a metal material.

Art Unit: 2833

Applicant's submission of an information disclosure statement under 37 CFR 1.97(c) with the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(p) on 12/20/2004 prompted the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 609(B)(2)(i). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alexander D. Gilman whose telephone number is 571 272-2004. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 10:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on 571 272-2800 ext. 33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

04/15/2005



ALEXANDER GILMAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER